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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator~~-(10)~~ comprising a piezoceramic~~-(26)~~ which can expand when a voltage is applied and contacting elements which rest against the piezoceramic ~~-(26)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the contacting elements are ~~fashioned~~ formed as profiled sheets~~-(12)~~ which have contact surfaces~~-(30,32)~~ spaced at intervals from one another.

2. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator~~-(10)~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the profiled sheets ~~-(12)~~ are bent.

3. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator~~-(10)~~ according to Claim 1~~-or Claim 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the profiled sheets~~-(12)~~ are bent such that the contact surfaces ~~-(30,32)~~ press with a predetermined force on the piezoceramic ~~-(26)~~ to form an electrical contact.

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4. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 1, further comprising Piezoactuator (10) according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that there is provided a metallization (28), against which the contact surfaces (30,32) rest, preferably running laterally along the piezoelectric longitudinal axis, on the piezoceramic (26), wherein the contact surfaces preferably being are fixed relative to the contact surfaces of the metallization (28) ~~so in such a way~~ that, when the piezoceramic (10) is axially deflected, no frictional relative movement occurs between contact surfaces (30,32) and metallization.

5. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 1, wherein Piezoactuator (10) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the contact surfaces (30,32) are ~~fashioned~~ formed in such a way that the first contact surfaces (30) form a first contact track (36) and the second contact surfaces (32) form a second contact track (34).

6. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 5, wherein Piezoactuator (10) according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ the contact surfaces (30,32) of the two contact tracks (34,36) extend in the longitudinal direction of the piezoceramic (26).

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7. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 1, wherein Piezoactuator (10) according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the profiled sheets ~~(12)~~ are fixed to an external surface ~~(18)~~ of a plastic cage ~~(14)~~ and the piezoceramic ~~(26)~~ is positioned in a cavity ~~(18)~~ of the plastic cage.

8. (Currently Amended) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 1, wherein Piezoactuator (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the profiled sheets ~~(12)~~ are fixed, preferably caulked, to fixing points ~~(20)~~ of the/a plastic cage ~~(14)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Method A method for producing a piezoactuator ~~(10)~~ comprising a piezoceramic ~~(26)~~ and a contacting element, characterized in that the method comprising the steps of:

forming the contacting elements ~~are fashioned~~ as contact surfaces ~~(30,32)~~ on a bent profiled sheet ~~(12)~~, wherein the contact surfaces ~~(30,32)~~ are spaced at intervals from one another,

fixing the bent profiled sheet ~~(12)~~ ~~is fixed to the an~~ external surface ~~(18)~~ of a plastic cage ~~(14)~~, and

introducing the piezoceramic ~~(26)~~ ~~is introduced~~ into a cavity ~~(18)~~ of the plastic cage ~~(14)~~ such that the contact surfaces ~~(30,32)~~ rest against a metallization ~~(28)~~ of the piezoceramic ~~(26)~~.

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10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the bent profiled sheets ~~(12)~~ are bent such that, after the piezoceramic ~~(26)~~ has been introduced, they apply a defined force.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 9, ~~wherein Method according to any one of Claims 9 or 10,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the profiled sheets ~~(12)~~ are etched.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 9, ~~wherein Method according to any one of Claims 9 to 11,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the profiled sheets ~~(12)~~ are fixed, especially caulked, to fixing points ~~(20)~~ of the plastic cage ~~(14)~~.

13. (NEW) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 4, wherein the metallization is running laterally along the piezoelectric longitudinal axis.

14. (NEW) A Piezoactuator comprising a piezoceramic which can expand when a voltage is applied and contacting elements which rest against the piezoceramic, wherein the contacting elements are formed as profiled sheets which have contact surfaces spaced at intervals from one another, wherein the profiled sheets are bent such that the contact surfaces press with a predetermined force on the piezoceramic to form an electrical contact.

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15. (NEW) Piezoactuator according to Claim 14, further comprising a metallization, against which the contact surfaces rest on the piezoceramic, wherein the contact surfaces are fixed relative to the contact surfaces of the metallization in such a way that, when the piezoceramic is axially deflected, no frictional relative movement occurs between contact surfaces and metallization.

16. (NEW) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 14, wherein the contact surfaces are formed in such a way that the first contact surfaces form a first contact track and the second contact surfaces form a second contact track.

17. (NEW) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 16, wherein the contact surfaces of the two contact tracks extend in the longitudinal direction of the piezoceramic.

18. (NEW) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 14, wherein the profiled sheets are fixed to an external surface of a plastic cage and the piezoceramic is positioned in a cavity of the plastic cage.

19. (NEW) A Piezoactuator according to Claim 14, wherein the profiled sheets are fixed, preferably caulked, to fixing points of the/a plastic cage.